

NEW BRUNSWICK

AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2026

New Brunswick (N.B.) has had one woman serve as premier, and its legislature has not yet achieved gender parity by having women make up at least half of its MLAs. The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick seats 49 members, of which 17 are women (34.7%). N.B.'s last election took place in October 2024.



Population

867,383



Female to Male

50.8% : 49.2%



GDP

\$37+ billion

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

N.B. has a unicameral legislature, with one chamber: the **Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick**. As a parliamentary democracy, N.B. has 49 constituencies which are each represented by an elected **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)**.

The political party with the most elected MLAs forms government, and their leader becomes the head of government, called the **Premier**. The Premier selects MLAs to serve as Cabinet Ministers.

The **Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick** is appointed by the Governor General of Canada and represents the King, Canada's Head of State.



CURRENT EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION

(as of Mar 2025)

Premier: Susan Holt (W)

Assumed office: 2 Nov. 2024

Party: N.B. Liberal Party

19 Cabinet Members

6 women (31.6%) : 13 men (68.4%)

Notable portfolios currently held by women:

- Seniors
- Women & Gender Equity
- Education & Early Childhood Development
- Social Development
- Economic & Social Inclusion Corporation
- Tourism, Heritage & Culture

CURRENT LEGISLATURE

(as of Mar 2025)

49 MLAs total

17 women (34.7%) : 32 men (65.3%)

MLAS PER PARTY

N.B. Liberal Party: 31 MLAs

10 women (32.3%) : 21 men (67.7%)

Progressive Conservative Party of N.B.:

16 MLAs

6 women (37.5%) : 10 men (62.5%)

Green Party of N.B.: 2 MLAs

1 woman (50%) : 1 man (50%)



LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

(as of Mar 2025)

32 Lieutenant Governors since 1867

5 women : 27 men

Current Lieutenant Governor:

Louise Imbeault (W)

PAST PREMIERS

(as of Mar 2025)

34 Premiers since 1867

1 woman : 33 men

Susan Holt, 2 Nov. 2024 - present

MILESTONES

1935

Frances Fish was the first woman to run for provincial office in N.B.

1967

Brenda Robertson was the first woman MLA elected in N.B.

1970

Brenda Robertson was the first woman named to Cabinet in N.B.

1984

Margaret McCain was the first woman to be appointed Lieutenant Governor of N.B.

1991

Shirley Dysart was the first woman Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of N.B.

2024

Susan Holt was the first woman premier of N.B.

2024

N.B.'s 2024 election saw a record number of women win seats in the province's legislature, with 17 women MLAs out of 49 (34.7%). This is the highest proportion of women MLAs in N.B.'s history.